

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. A communication apparatus comprising:  
means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail  
data by connecting to the Internet; and  
5 means for communicating the electronic mail data  
having facsimile-format image data attached by  
performing communication pertaining to functional  
information in addition to the communication of the  
electronic mail data.
- 10 2. A communication apparatus comprising:  
first connecting means for connecting to a local  
area network and/or second connecting means for  
connecting to a wide area network;  
first communicating means for  
15 transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by  
connecting to the Internet by one of said first and  
second connecting means; and  
second communicating means for performing  
facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area  
20 network by said second connecting means,  
wherein communication concerning functional  
information is performed when said first communicating  
means communicates electronic mail data having image  
data attached.
- 25 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if  
there is no response to the communication concerning

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functional information from a communication partner  
apparatus with which said first communicating means  
communicates, electronic mail data is sent to said  
first communicating means by attaching image data  
5 corresponding to the most common one of image data  
standards.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if  
there is no response to the communication concerning  
functional information from a communication partner  
10 apparatus with which said first communicating means  
communicates and if communication by said second  
communicating means is designated and the number of the  
other party is designated, said second communicating  
means communicates image data.

5. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if  
during the communication by said first communicating  
means a communication error occurs in communication of  
image data and in communication pertaining to delivery  
confirmation, retransmission is performed by selecting  
15 the number of times of retransmission from a plurality  
of individually preset numbers of times of  
retransmission including 0, in accordance with the  
contents of the communication error.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein no  
25 retransmission is performed if the contents of the

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communication error indicate that there is no destination address.

7. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, electronic mail data describing information concerning communication error information is transmitted to said communication partner apparatus or a previously designated electronic mail address.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, electronic mail data having image data attached is transmitted to said communication partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

9. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, communication is performed in accordance with designation of whether transmission of electronic mail by attaching image data by the most common one of image standards or retransmission is to be performed.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the most common one of image standards is an MH coding system considered to be essential of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, by which a

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resolution in a main scan direction is 8 pels/mm, a resolution in a sub-scan direction is 3.85 lines/mm, and an original width is 208 mm of A4 size.

11. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if  
5 the form of connection to said first communicating means is dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation are successively performed by a single call.

10 12. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if the form of connection to said first communicating means is dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation are  
15 separately performed by at least two calls.

13. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if the form of connection to said first communicating means is dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and  
20 communication concerning delivery confirmation are successively performed by a single call or separately performed by different calls.

14. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if the form of connection to said first communicating  
25 means is dial-up connection, a line is once

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disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication.

15. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if the form of connection to said first communicating means is dial-up connection, a line is once  
5 disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication, and timeout is selectively verified by recall.

16. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
10 functional information of a destination apparatus is acquired by communication using one of said first and second communicating means in the past, a database for holding a maximum capability supported by each function is registered or updated, and, if said first  
15 communicating means is to communicate data, the data is converted into a standard registered in said database and communicated.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein whether image data pertaining to said database is to be  
20 converted is set for each function item registered in said database.

18. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein if an address of the other party with respect to said first communicating means is input, display related to  
25 functional information on an operation panel is switched on the basis of information in said database.

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19. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs in said first communicating means, said second communicating means communicates image data if communication by said second

5 communicating means is designated and a telephone number of the other party is set.

20. The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for acquiring function identification information of a transmission destination by looking up  
10 a database stored in connection with functional information in an electronic mail server connected by dial-up connection.

21. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when said first communicating means is to perform  
15 communication concerning the functional information, of pieces of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, functional information pertaining to communication such as a handshake rate, a modem rate, a minimum transmission time, the presence/absence of error  
20 correction mode, and the presence/absence of G4 function need not be exchanged.

22. A communication apparatus comprising:  
first communicating means for  
transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by  
25 connecting to the Internet; and

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means for sending electronic mail by attaching image data by one of image standards which a communication partner is most likely to be able to process, if a communication error occurs when said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.

23. A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

means for designating an image format such as a resolution of image data; and

means for requesting functional information, pertaining to the designated image format, of the other party,

wherein functional information of the other party is not requested if the designated image format is an image format which the other party is most likely to be able to process.

24. A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

an identifier for relating pieces of electronic mail concerning pieces of functional information pertaining to the same process to each other, when said

first communicating means is to communicate electronic mail data having image data attached.

25. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet and a second communication procedure of performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network, and storing a program for causing a computer to execute communication concerning functional information if said first communication procedure is to communicate electronic mail data having image data attached.

26. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to send electronic mail data by attaching image data corresponding to the most common one of image data standards, if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus and performed by said first communication procedure.

27. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to communicate image data by said second communication procedure, if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication



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partner apparatus and performed by said first communication procedure and if communication by said second communication procedure and the number of the other party are designated.

5 28. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to perform retransmission, if during the communication by said communication procedure a communication error occurs in communication of image data and in  
10 communication pertaining to delivery confirmation, by selecting the number of times of retransmission from a plurality of numbers of times of retransmission including 0, which are individually set in advance, in accordance with the contents of the communication error.

15 29. The medium according to claim 28, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to perform no retransmission if the contents of the communication error indicate that there is no destination address.

20 30. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to transmit, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, electronic mail data describing information concerning  
25 communication error information to said communication

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partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

31. The medium according to claim 30, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to transmit, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, electronic mail data having image data attached to said communication partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

32. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to perform communication, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, in accordance with designation of whether transmission of electronic mail by attaching image data by the most common one of image standards or retransmission is to be performed.

33. The medium according to claim 32, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to perform communication such that the most common one of image standards is an MH coding system considered to be essential of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, by which a resolution in a main scan direction is 8 pels/mm, a resolution in a sub-scan direction is 3.85 lines/mm, and an original width is 208 mm of A4 size.

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34. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to successively perform communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation by a single call, if the form of connection by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

35. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to separately perform communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation by at least two calls, if the form of connection by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

36. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to successively perform or separately perform communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation by a single call or by different calls, if the form of connection by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

37. The medium according to claim 34, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to once disconnect a line to wait for timeout processing in communication, if the form of connection

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by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

38. The medium according to claim 34, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer  
5 to once disconnect a line to wait for timeout processing in communication and selectively verify timeout by recall, if the form of connection by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

39. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said  
10 storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to acquire functional information of a destination apparatus by communication using one of said first and second communication procedures in the past, register or update a database for holding a maximum capability  
15 supported by each function, and, if communication is to be performed by said first communication procedure, convert an image standard designated by a user into a standard registered in said database on the basis of information of said database and communicate the image.

20 40. The medium according to claim 39, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to set whether image data pertaining to said database is to be converted for each function item registered in said database.

25 41. The medium according to claim 39, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer

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to switch display related to functional information on an operation panel on the basis of information in said database, if an address of the other party is input in said first communication procedure.

5 42. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to communicate image data by said second communication procedure, if a communication error occurs in said first communication procedure and if communication by  
10 said second communication procedure is designated and a telephone number of the other party is set.

43. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said storage medium having the communication function stores a program for causing a computer to execute a procedure  
15 of acquiring function identification information of a transmission destination by looking up a database stored in connection with functional information in an electronic mail server connected by dial-up connection.

44. The medium according to claim 25, wherein said  
20 storage medium stores a program for causing a computer not to exchange, of pieces of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, functional information pertaining to communication such as a handshake rate, a modem rate, a minimum transmission time, the  
25 presence/absence of error correction mode, and the presence/absence of G4 function, when communication

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concerning functional information of a storage medium having the communicating function is to be performed by said first communication procedure.

45. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet and a procedure of, if a communication error occurs while electronic mail data having image data attached is communicated by said first communication procedure, sending electronic mail by attaching the image data by one of image standards which the other party is most likely to be able to process.

46. A computer-readable storage medium comprising a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet, a procedure of designating an image format such as a resolution of image data, and a procedure of requesting functional information, pertaining to the designated image format, of the other party, and

storing a program for causing a computer not to request functional information of the other party if the designated image format is an image format which the other party is most likely to be able to process.

47. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a first

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communication procedure of transmitting/receiving  
electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet and  
a procedure of, when electronic mail data having image  
data attached is to be communicated by said first

5 communication procedure, relating electronic mail  
concerning pieces of functional information pertaining  
to the same process, electronic mail of a text, and  
electronic mail concerning delivery confirmation to  
each other.

10 48. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said  
wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

~~49.~~ A communication method comprising:

the first communication step of  
transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by  
15 connecting to the Internet; and

the step of sending, if a communication error  
occurs while electronic mail having image data attached  
is communicated in said first communication step, the  
electronic mail by attaching the image data by one of  
20 image standards which the other party is most likely to  
be able to process.

~~50.~~ A communication method comprising:

the first communication step of  
transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by  
25 connecting to the Internet;

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(the step of designating an image format such as a resolution of image data; and

wherein if the designated image format is an image format which the other party is most likely to be able to process, functional information of the other party is not requested.

52. A communication system comprising:

means for performing communication concerning functional information, when electronic mail data having facsimile-format image data attached is communicated between said communication apparatuses, in



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addition to the communication of the electronic mail data.

53. A communication apparatus comprising:

first connecting means for connecting to a local  
5 area network and/or second connecting means for  
connecting to a wide area network;

first communicating means for  
transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by  
connecting to the Internet by one of said first and  
10 second connecting means; and

means for receiving information on delivery  
confirmation by said first communicating means,

wherein when said first communicating means  
communicates electronic mail data having image data  
15 attached, a communication result report is output which  
indicates one of information representing that  
communication of image information is successful,  
information representing that communication of image  
information has failed, information representing that a  
20 communication result of image information is unverified,  
and information representing that the electronic mail  
data has been communicated by attaching image data  
corresponding to the most common one of image data  
standards.

25 54. The apparatus according to claim 53, further  
comprising second communicating means for performing

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facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means.

55. The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein when said second communicating means performs communication,

5 two types of communication result reports indicating information representing that communication of image information is successful and information representing that communication of image information has failed are output.

10 56. A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and

15 second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network,

wherein when said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached, a communication result report is output which  
20 indicates one of information representing that communication of image information is successful, information representing that communication of image information has failed, information representing that a communication result of image information is unverified,  
25 and information representing that the electronic mail data has been communicated by attaching image data

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corresponding to the most common one of image data standards, and, when said second communicating means performs communication, a communication result report indicating one of information representing that

- 5 communication of image information is successful and information representing that communication of image information has failed is output.

57. The apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

- 10 58. A communication method comprising the steps of:  
transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by  
connecting to the Internet; and

- outputting, when electronic mail data having  
image data attached is communicated, a communication  
15 result report which indicates one of information  
representing that communication of image information is  
successful, information representing that communication  
of image information has failed, information  
representing that a communication result of image  
20 information is unverified, and information representing  
that the electronic mail data has been communicated by  
attaching image data corresponding to the most common  
one of image data standards.

59. A communication system comprising:



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a database for holding information pertaining to functional information,

5 wherein said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.

62. The apparatus according to claim 61, further comprising second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means.

10 63. The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said apparatus has an electronic mail address registration function of registering an address of a communication partner and, when an electronic mail address using said first communicating means is registered in said  
15 electronic mail address registration function, communication concerning functional information is performed with respect to a destination apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function, and the functional information is registered  
20 or updated with respect to an item, corresponding to the registered electronic mail address, in said database.

64. The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein in accordance with whether the form of connection to said  
25 first communicating means is dial-up connection via said wide area network or dedicated-line IP connection,

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whether communication concerning functional information  
with respect to a communication partner apparatus  
registered in said electronic mail address registration  
function is to be performed is individually set during  
5 registration of said electronic mail address  
registration function.

65. The apparatus according to claim 63, wherein in  
accordance with whether the form of connection to said  
first communicating means is dial-up connection via  
10 said wide area network or dedicated-line IP connection,  
communication concerning functional information is  
performed with respect to a communication partner  
apparatus registered in said electronic mail address  
registration function and, if no functional information  
15 of said communication partner apparatus is acquired,  
functional information corresponding to the most common  
one of image data standards is registered, during  
registration of said electronic mail address  
registration function.

20 66. The apparatus according to claim 61, further  
comprising means for transmitting the contents of said  
database to a communication partner apparatus, said  
means notifying said communication partner apparatus of  
information registered in said database each time said  
25 database is updated or at any arbitrary timing.

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67. The apparatus according to claim 61, further comprising means for transmitting the contents of said database to an electronic mail server for distributing electronic mail data to a connected communication partner apparatus, said means notifying said electronic mail server of information registered in said database each time said database is updated or at any arbitrary timing.

68. A communication system comprising a plurality of communication apparatuses each of which comprises first connecting means for connecting to a local area network and/or second connecting means for connecting to a wide area network, first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet by one of said first and second connecting means, and a database for holding information concerning functional information, and which communicates electronic mail data having image data attached by said first communicating means, wherein on the basis of information about broadcast of a database pertaining to the functional information from an electronic mail server to which said plurality of communication apparatuses are connected and which distributes electronic mail data to said plurality of communication apparatuses, said database of each communication apparatus is updated to

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allow said plurality of communication apparatuses to share the contents of said databases.

69. The system according to claim 68, further comprising second communicating means for performing  
5 facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means.

70. The system according to claim 68, wherein when said electronic mail server distributes electronic mail data having facsimile image data attached to said  
10 communication apparatus connected, delivery confirmation is returned to said communication apparatus connected, without distributing the electronic mail data having facsimile information attached to said communication apparatus or after the  
15 electronic mail data is distributed to said communication apparatus, after said electronic mail server completes data reception.

71. A communication apparatus comprising:  
first communicating means for  
20 transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;  
means for designating an image format such as a resolution of image data; and  
means for requesting functional information,  
25 pertaining to the designated image format, of a communication partner,



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wherein if functional information of said communication partner is known, the functional information of said communication partner is not requested.

5 72. A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

10 second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network; and

a database for holding information concerning functional information,

15 wherein said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.

20 73. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet and a second communication procedure of performing facsimile communication by connecting to a wide area network, and storing a program for causing a computer to search a database for information concerning  
25 functional information and communicate electronic mail

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data having image data attached by said first communication procedure.

74. The medium according to claim 73, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer  
5 to execute an electronic mail address registration function for registering an address of a communication partner, and

a program for causing a computer to perform communication pertaining to functional information,  
10 when an electronic mail address is registered in said electronic mail address registration function, with a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function, and register or update the functional information with  
15 respect to an item, corresponding to the registered electronic mail address, in said database.

75. The medium according to claim 74, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer  
20 to individually set, in accordance with whether the form of connection to the Internet is dial-up connection via a wide area network or dedicated-line IP connection, whether communication concerning functional information with respect to a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address  
25 registration function is to be performed, during

registration of said electronic mail address  
registration function.

76. The medium according to claim 74, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to perform communication concerning functional information, in accordance with whether the form of connection to the Internet is dial-up connection via a wide area network or dedicated-line IP connection, with a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function and, if no functional information of said communication partner apparatus is acquired, register functional information corresponding to the most common one of image data standards, during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

77. The medium according to claim 73, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to execute a procedure of transferring the contents of said database to a communication partner apparatus, and a program for causing a computer to notify another communication partner apparatus of information registered in said database each time said database is updated or at any arbitrary timing.

78. The medium according to claim 73, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to execute a procedure of transferring the contents of

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said database to an electronic mail server for  
 distributing electronic mail data addressed to a  
 communication partner apparatus connected, and a  
 program for causing a computer to notify said

5 electronic mail server of information registered in  
said database each time a database of said  
communication partner apparatus is updated or at any  
arbitrary timing.

79. A communication system comprising a communication  
10 apparatus which comprises first communicating means for  
transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by  
connecting to the Internet, second communicating means  
for performing facsimile communication by connecting to  
a wide area network, and a database for holding  
15 information concerning functional information, and  
which communicates electronic mail data having image  
data attached by said first communicating means,

wherein on the basis of information about  
broadcast of a database pertaining to the functional  
information from an electronic mail server to which a  
20 plurality of said communication apparatuses are  
connected and which distributes electronic mail data to  
said plurality of communication apparatuses, said  
database of each communication apparatus is updated to  
25 allow said plurality of communication apparatuses to  
share the contents of said databases.

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80. The system according to claim 79, wherein when said electronic mail server distributes electronic mail data having facsimile image data attached to said communication apparatus connected, delivery

5 confirmation is returned to said communication apparatus connected, without distributing the electronic mail data having facsimile information attached to said communication apparatus or after the electronic mail data is distributed to said  
10 communication apparatus, after said electronic mail server completes data reception.

81. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a first communication procedure of transmitting/receiving  
15 electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet, a procedure of designating an image format such as a resolution of image data, and a procedure of requesting functional information, pertaining to the designated image format, of the other party, and

20 a program for causing a computer not to request functional information of the other party if the functional information of the other party is known.

82. The apparatus according to claim 61, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

25 83. The system according to claim 68, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.



5 Internet is dial-up connection via a wide area network or dedicated-line IP connection, whether communication concerning functional information with respect to a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function is to be performed is individually set during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

10 88. The method according to claim 86, wherein in accordance with whether the form of connection to the Internet is dial-up connection via a wide area network or dedicated-line IP connection, communication concerning functional information is performed with respect to a communication partner apparatus registered in said electronic mail address registration function and, if no functional information of said communication partner apparatus is acquired, functional information corresponding to the most common one of image data standards is registered, during registration of said electronic mail address registration function.

20 89. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein if the form of connection to said first communicating means is dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication.

25 90. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein if the form of connection to said first communicating

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means is dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication, and timeout is selectively verified by recall.

5 91. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein if the form of connection to said first communicating means is dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication.

10 92. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein if the form of connection to said first communicating means is dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication, and timeout is selectively verified by  
15 recall.

93. The medium according to claim 35, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to once disconnect a line to wait for timeout processing in communication, if the form of connection  
20 by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

94. The medium according to claim 35, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to once disconnect a line to wait for timeout  
25 processing in communication and selectively verify



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timeout by recall, if the form of connection by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

95. The medium according to claim 36, wherein said storage medium stores a program for causing a computer  
5 to once disconnect a line to wait for timeout processing in communication, if the form of connection by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

96. The medium according to claim 36, wherein said  
10 storage medium stores a program for causing a computer to once disconnect a line to wait for timeout processing in communication and selectively verify timeout by recall, if the form of connection by said first communication procedure is dial-up connection.

97. The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein said  
15 wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

98. The apparatus according to claim 55, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

99. The apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said  
20 wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

100. The apparatus according to claim 72, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.